



**Testimony on HB 110
House Finance Committee**

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Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Crawley, and Esteemed Committee Members,

I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to offer this testimony on Ohio's operating budget!

My name is Ashley Brocius and I am the CEO of RT Industries, Inc. We are located in Miami County, at 110 Foss Way Troy, OH 45373. RT Industries, Inc. is a non-profit 501c3 organization that provides supports for one hundred fifty (150) Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities and we employ one hundred twenty (120).

I am very supportive of the budget initiatives outlined by Governor DeWine, Director Davis for the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), and Director Miller for Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD). With these budget initiatives and the leadership of Director Davis and Director Miller, Ohioans with developmental and intellectual disabilities will continue to receive the vital services that organizations like mine provide.

RT Industries has provided Day & Employment services to school-aged students and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities since 1974. We began our journey as a sheltered workshop but have successfully moved towards competitive and integrated employment in the community. As a community, RT Industries is a staple for success in maintaining employment with many local businesses and our Day Services promotes positive community membership. RT Industries defines our success by how we touch the lives of humans.

With budget increases for the services RT Industries provides, incredible people in this field will begin to believe in being valued once more for their work. A Task Force would be extremely beneficial for many providers, including RT Industries. Working with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities is a rewarding career but concerns around retention and recruiting needs to be identified to better support our organizations.

To best support these services and the Ohioans who receive and provide them, I encourage you to support the addition of the following initiatives into Ohio's biennium budget:

Helping people achieve personal success by developing skills to confidently work, interact and thrive in the community.

~ Safety ~ Collaboration ~ Camaraderie ~ Growth ~ Integrity ~ Excellence ~ Innovation ~



- Increase general revenue fund appropriations in DODD's budget to fund much needed Homemaker and Personal Care, Day and Vocational Services and Nonmedical Transportation Medicaid home and community-based waiver services rate increase. *These increases will provide much needed funds for Direct Support Professional (DSP) wages, support for other front-line professionals and sustain the infrastructure necessary to provide our services.*
- Increase general revenue fund appropriations in DODD's budget to support the reimbursement formula for intermediate care facilities (ICF).
- Support a budget amendment that would allow ICFs to choose between a reimbursement rate freeze or a continuation of the formula for the first year of the biennium.
- Support the creation of a Task Force to address our system's workforce challenges. *This Task Force will identify several initiatives and projects designed to help providers recruit and retain a qualified workforce.*
- Support the as introduced budget for Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities.

With your leadership, together we can ensure these services are available to the Ohioans that so greatly need them! **Thank you again, for the opportunity and privilege to bring my concerns before you and if I can ever be of any help in this process, please let me know.**

Regards,



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